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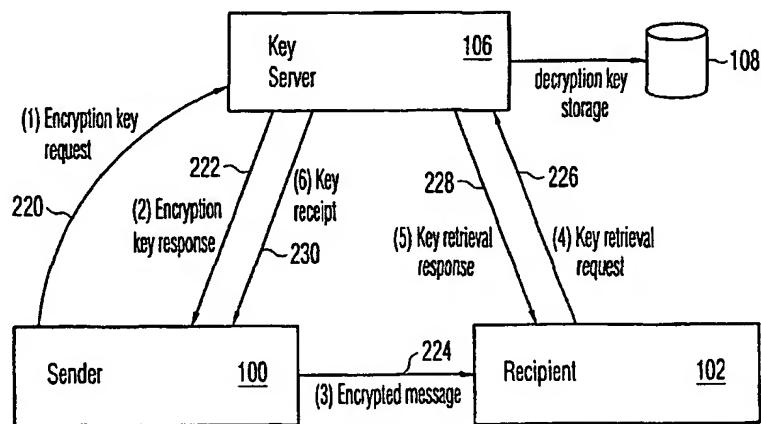
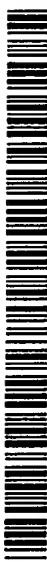
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(54) Title: SECURE MESSAGING SYSTEM WITH RETURN RECEIPTS



A3

(57) Abstract: A method and system for electronic messaging in which a sender (100) of an electronic message (224) receives a return receipt (230), without having to send the message contents to a third party. The sender (100) contacts a server (106) to obtain an encryption key to encrypt the message. The server (106) returns an encryption key (312) along with key retrieval information (314) to the sender (100). The key retrieval information (314) can be used to obtain from the server (106) the decryption key (332) corresponding to the returned encryption key (312). The sender (100) encrypts the message (604), along with the key retrieval information (314), to the recipient (102). The recipient (102) sends the key retrieval information (314) to the server (106) to receive the corresponding decryption key (332). The recipient (102) then decrypts the encrypted message (720) received from the sender (100) using the decryption key (332). When the recipient (102) sends a request to obtain the decryption key (332), the server (106) notifies the sender (100) when the key has been successfully retrieved. The fact that the decryption key (332) was retrieved by the recipient (102) indicates to the sender (100) that the recipient (102) received the message.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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PCT/US01/18805

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : G09C, H04L 9/00
US CL : 380/279

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 380/278,279,30,21

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
WEST, "message and receipt", "email and server", "return receipt"

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5,481,613 A (Ford et al.) 02 January 1996, column 4, lines 14-18, column 5, lines 18-49, column 6, lines 6-7, column 6, lines 40-66.	1-13
Y	US 5,790,790 A (Smith et al.) 04 August 1998, column 14, lines 27-34	1-13
Y,P	US 6,154,543 A (Baltzley) 28 November 2000 , column 5, lines 8-20, column 6, lines 23-26.	2,5,11,13
A	US 5,710,816 A (Stork et al) 20 January 1998, column 5, lines 46-60.	1, 3, 10

<input type="checkbox"/>	Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.	<input type="checkbox"/>	See patent family annex.
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"L"	document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&"	document member of the same patent family
"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
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